



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

2 October 2013

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Angus King
United States Senate
188 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael Michaud
United States House of Representatives
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
United States House of Representatives
1318 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Collins and King and Representatives Michaud and Pingree:

I received disturbing news today that many of the Maine National Guard uniformed service members and civilians, who are directly supporting troops, including those in combat, are being furloughed. Therefore, I write to you today to ask for your support to uphold the intent of the "Pay Our Military Act", and strongly urge you to ensure that Title 32 uniformed military personnel are treated no differently than their Title 10 counterparts.

Many of Maine's men and women serving in, or supporting the Maine National Guard serve as Title 32 Dual Status Military Technicians. They wear the same uniform, deploy with, and often fight and die next to their Title 10 counterparts but are classified as civilian employees when not on military orders. Unfortunately, due to the frankly antiquated opinions of some of the Defense hierarchy, they are being penalized for serving in this different "classification." They are subject to furlough even though Title 10 service members are not. This is unacceptable.

Maine currently has more than 315 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen mobilized, and 37 of these Guardsmen and women are Dual Status Military Technicians. If these service members were not overseas defending our country in the combat theater and were here in Maine, they would be furloughed as of yesterday.

The "Pay Our Military Act" gives the Department of Defense broad latitude to pay service members and civilians. The bill does not limit the provision of pay to civilians or certain service members who were previously categorized by the Administration as 'excepted' or 'essential' during sequestration furloughs. The law is explicitly clear: all members of the Armed Forces, including Reserve component personnel serving in an active status, will be paid in the event of a government shutdown.



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Further, the bill requires that civilian Department of Defense personnel "providing support to members of the Armed Forces" continue to receive their pay and allowances.

I strongly believe that all service members, and the civilians that support them, should receive equitable and fair treatment under this law.

Thank you for reviewing this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul R. LePage". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul R. LePage
Governor